

UNCLASSIFIED  
UNCLASSIFIED  
onan R Narango 12/26/2001 09:03:43 AM From DSInbox: Brian R Narango

RELEASED IN FULL

T/S

Cable Text:  
UNCLASSIFIED  
TELEGRAM

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - ROUTINE  
Action: WHA  
From: AMEMBASSY CARACAS (CARACAS 3726 : ROUTINE)  
Tags: SOCI, POOV, KPAO, VB  
Captions: None  
Subject: GAITAS - NO TO CHAVEZ, NO TO TERRORISM  
Ref: None

December 21, 2001

Chron in

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. NORMALLY, POPULAR MUSIC IS NOT A SERIOUS TOPIC FOR REPORTING. HOWEVER, CURRENT CHRISTMAS SONGS INDICATE THAT CHAVEZ'S POPULARITY MAY BE SLIPPING IN HIS VERY CENTER OF POWER - THE POOR. THESE SONGS SATIRICALLY CRITICIZE CHAVEZ'S TRAVELS, HIS INFATUATION WITH CUBA, AND HIS WEEKLY RADIO "CADENAS," BOOTLEG SONG DECLARES COMPLETE SOLIDARITY WITH THE US-LED COALITION AGAINST TERRORISM. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.
2. GAITAS ARE A TRADITIONAL FORM OF MUSIC FROM ZULIA, VENEZUELA'S OIL-PRODUCING STATE. THESE UPBEAT, SOMEWHAT RAUCOUS, SONGS HAVE THEIR ORIGINS IN MARACAIBO, THE VIRGIN OF CHIQUINCUERA. FROM THEIR ORIGINS IN POPULAR RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS OF THE PATRON SAINT OF MARACAIBO, THEY ARE FEELING, THE GAITAS MOVED TO SONGS EXALTING REGIONAL PRIDE AND FROM PROTEST. BECAUSE THEY HAVE THEIR ORIGIN IN THE BARS OF THE OLDER AND POORER SECTIONS OF MARACAIBO, THEY ARE A GOOD BAROMETER FOR PUBLIC OPINION WITHIN THE SECTORS OF THE POPULACE TRADITIONALLY SEEN AS MOST SUPPORTIVE OF THE PRESIDENT CHAVEZ. BUT THAT SUPPORT MAY BE ERODING.
3. THIS YEAR SEVEN (A RECORD NUMBER) GAITAS HAVE REACHED HIT PARADE STATUS, AND ALL ARE SEVERE CRITISMS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAVEZ STYLE. SOME ARE BROADLY SATIRIC OF THE PRESIDENTIAL "CADENAS," RADIO SHOWS THAT GO ON FOR HOURS AT A TIME; OTHERS EQUATE THE HEAD OF STATE WITH PINOCCHIO (WHOSE NOSE GREW LONGER WITH EVERY LIE), WHILE STILL OTHERS LAMBASTE THE INCREASING INFLUENCE OF HAVANA ON VENEZUELAN DAILY LIFE. IN ONE GAITA, THE BAND JOYFULLY SINGS, "WE ALL IDENTIFY WITH THE SQUALID ONES." APPROPRIATING TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE HIM AS ONLY THE "SQUALID" RICH, WHILE IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT CHAVEZ IS WEAK IN ZULIA, THE NATIONWIDE ACCEPTANCE OF THESE SONGS IS AN INDICATION THAT CHAVEZ'S SUPPORT IN THE POORER NEIGHBORHOODS MAY BE WANING.

NO TO TERRORISM!

4. ANOTHER GAITA, WHICH HAS RECEIVED WIDE AIRPLAY, DECLARES, "WE SUPPORT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM." THIS GAITA, A BOOTLEG ONE NOT ON SALE IN THE RECORD SHOPS, GOES ON TO DECLARE FULL SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT BUSH IN HIS AIR ATTACKS AGAINST TERRORISM - A MUCH CLEARER STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE AIMS OF THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM THAN HAS BEEN ARTICULATED BY THE POPULIST PRESIDENT AND HIS INNER CIRCLE. WHILE THIS MIGHT BE SEEN AS JUST WHISTLING IN THE WIND, IT IS SIGNIFICANT HERE WHO IS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS  
DATE/CASE ID: 05 JUN 2006 200304421

UNCLASSIFIED

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

DOING THE WHISTLING.

HRINAK

---

Additional Addressees:

None

cc:

None

Distribution:

TED5762  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	CIAH-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOER-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	ED-01	UTRD-00	VC-00	HHS-01	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-01	PN-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	TEST-00	TRSH-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00

/011W

-----4F3E31 212116Z /38

R 212031Z DBC 01  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4385

UNCLAS CARACAS 003726

FOR WHA/AND (NARANJO)  
FOR WHA/PDA (BYERS)  
FOR INR (COZART)

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: SOCI, PGOV, KPAO, VE  
SUBJECT: GAITAS - NO TO CHAVEZ, NO TO TERRORISM

---

End Cable Text

Brian R Naranjo 12/26/2001 09:03:43 AM From DB/Inbox: Brian R Naranjo

**UNCLASSIFIED**

2

**UNCLASSIFIED**